

- grease, and falling objects, and
- ii. having at least one opening through which a terminal cord may be inserted and connected to the bank card terminal.

10. A bank card terminal cover according to Claim 9, wherein the top is hingedly mounted to the top of the bank card terminal to open in a first mode to provide access to a bank card terminal key pad and card reading slot, and to close in a second mode about the bank card terminal to prevent dust, grime, liquids, and other matter from interfering with the bank card terminal key pad and card reading slot.

11. A bank card terminal cover according to Claim 9, including a handle on the top exterior to aid in removal of the top to access the key pad and card slot of said bank card terminal.

12. A bank card terminal cover according to Claim 9, wherein the top is transparent.

13. A bank card terminal cover according to Claim 9, including a shock absorbing seal affixed to the open bottom of the cover side walls to allow the cover to removably seal to the non-integral support surface.

14. A bank card terminal cover according to Claim 9, including a bottom sized to support and fit around the bottom of a bank card terminal with structure operably associated with the sidewalls of the cover to form a container about the bank card terminal allow the cover to seal to the bottom in a first mode, and to open to provide access to the bank card terminal in a second mode.

15. A bank card terminal cover according to Claim 14, wherein the bottom of the cover structure include corresponding hinge mounts attached to the sidewalls and bottom to enable the cover to pivot open to expose the bank card terminal keys and card slot reader for use in a first mode, and to pivot closed in a second mode for storage of the bank card terminal.

16. A bank card terminal cover for bank card terminals adapted to be placed on a vertical non-integral separate support surfaces and having exterior exposed card

reading slots and keyboards pervious to liquids, grease, and dust, and electrical connections, comprising:

- a. a transparent rigid, crush resistant, liquid, dust, and grease impervious top with
- b. a plurality of rigid, crush resistant, liquid, dust and grease impervious sidewalls which define an open bottomed interior chamber sized to fit about a bank card terminal when placed on an independent support surface; said sidewalls
 - i. extending sufficiently to contact the non-integral support surface to elevate the top of the terminal cover above and about the bank card terminal to direct the force from blows to the cover and sidewalls onto the non-integral support surface, while protecting the bank card terminal from contact with liquids, dust, grease, and falling objects, and
 - ii. having at least one opening through which a terminal cord may be inserted and connected to the bank card terminal,
- c. opening structure associated with the top of the bank card terminal and terminal cover to provide access to the bank card terminal keyboard and card reading slot in a first mode, and to close about and secure the bank card terminal in a second mode, and
- d. a shock absorbing seal affixed to the edges of the cover sidewalls to seal with the vertical non-integral support surface.

Remarks

The Non-Final Office Action dated 3/24/03 has been reviewed. The foregoing amendments are submitted to more particular point out applicant's invention and add no new subject matter. Specifically, the claims were amended to more particularly describe how the cover is non-integral to the bank card terminal and directs contact forces onto the non-integral support surfaces upon which the bank card terminal rests. Support for the amendments are found in the specification and the drawings. The claim amendments are submitted now in an attempt to avoid the necessity of an appeal. Attached are unmarked copies of the new claims.

The rejection of Claims 9 through 16, as amended, on the grounds of obviousness under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Eppich* (US 4,084,214) is again